

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A lancing device for penetrating skin, comprising:

a housing;

a lancet having a puncturing tip, wherein the lancet travels along a lancing travel path toward an extended position with the lancet tip extending out of the housing to puncture the skin at a puncture site; and

a stimulator member having an impacting portion, wherein the stimulator member travels along a stimulating travel path toward an extended position with the stimulating portion extending out of the housing to impact the skin at ~~or only a stimulating site that is laterally adjacent the puncture site to create a sensory distraction at or only the stimulating site laterally adjacent the puncture site before or simultaneously with the puncturing of the skin,~~

wherein the stimulator member and the lancet are in a side-by-side arrangement so that the lancing travel path and the stimulating travel path are side-by-side, parallel, and non-coaxial.

27. (Previously added) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member is elongated.

28. (Previously added) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member impacting portion is defined by a blunt tip.

29. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 26, further comprising three separate springs including a drive spring for driving the stimulator member and the lancet, a stimulator return spring that retracts the stimulator member impacting portion from the extended position back into the housing, and a lancet return spring that retracts the lancet tip from the extended position back into the housing.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously added) The device of Claim 26, further comprising a single drive spring for driving both the stimulator member and the lancet.

32. (Currently amended) The device of Claim ~~26~~ 31, further comprising a single drive member that is driven by the single drive spring and that in turn drives the stimulator and the lancet.

33. (Previously added) The device of Claim 32, wherein the stimulator member has a drive surface and the lancet has a drive surface, and wherein the drive member has a contact surface that engages the drive surfaces of the stimulator member and the lancet to drive forward both the stimulator member and the lancet.

34. (Previously added) The device of Claim 33, wherein the stimulator drive surface and the lancet drive surface are generally laterally aligned, and wherein the drive member contact surface is generally flat.

35. (Previously added) The device of Claim 33, wherein the stimulator member is longer than the lancet.

36. (Previously added) The device of Claim 26, wherein the stimulator member is longer than the lancet.

37. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the housing defines a lancing opening through which the lancet puncturing tip extends and a stimulating opening through which the stimulator impacting portion extends.

38. (New) The device of Claim 37, wherein the lancing opening and the stimulating opening are arranged in a side-by-side non-coaxial arrangement.

39. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the lancet and the stimulator are arranged according to a varied length scheme for timing the puncturing simultaneously with or after the stimulator impact.

40. (New) The device of Claim 39, wherein the stimulator member is longer than the lancet.

41. (New) The device of Claim 26, further comprising a single drive member that drives the stimulator and the lancet so that they travel substantially the same distance.

42. (New) A lancing device for penetrating skin, comprising:

a housing defining a lancing opening and a stimulating opening in a side-by-side arrangement;

a lancet having a puncturing tip, wherein the lancet travels along a lancing travel path to an extended position with the lancet tip extending out of the lancing opening to puncture the skin at a puncture site;

an elongated stimulator member having an impacting portion defined by a blunt tip, wherein the stimulator member travels along a stimulating travel path to an extended position with the stimulating portion extending out of the stimulating opening to impact the skin at only a stimulating site that is laterally adjacent the puncture site to create a sensory distraction at only the stimulating site laterally adjacent the puncture site before or simultaneously with the puncturing of the skin, wherein the stimulator member and the lancet are in a side-by-side arrangement so that the lancing travel path and the stimulating travel path are side-by-side, parallel, and non-coaxial; and

a single drive member that drives the stimulator and the lancet, wherein the stimulator member has a drive surface and the lancet has a drive surface, wherein the single drive member has a contact surface that engages the drive surfaces of the stimulator member and the lancet to drive forward both the stimulator member and the lancet, and wherein the single drive member drives the stimulator and the lancet so that they travel substantially the same distance.

43. (New) The device of Claim 42, further comprising a single drive spring for driving the single drive member.

44. (New) The device of Claim 42, further comprising a stimulator return spring that retracts the stimulator member impacting portion from the extended position back into the housing, and a lancet return spring that retracts the lancet tip from the extended position back into the housing.

45. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the lancet and the stimulator are arranged according to a varied length scheme for timing the puncturing simultaneously with or after the stimulator impact.